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OVER 65	£8.00	OVER 65	£8.00
STUDENT	£6.00	STUDENT	£6.00
UNDER 16	£2.00	UNDER 16	£2.00
UNDER 11	FREE	UNDER 11	FREE

AWAY FANZONES	PRICE	AWAY & SUPPORTER LOWER	PRICE
ADULT	£10.00	ADULT	£10.00
OVER 65	£8.00	OVER 65	£8.00
STUDENT	£6.00	STUDENT	£6.00
UNDER 16	£2.00	UNDER 16	£2.00
UNDER 11	FREE	UNDER 11	FREE

Notes: seating at 11.30am

OXFORD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB HOME FORM LEAGUE RECORDS

	15/16	14/15
PLAYED	9	9
WON	5	3
DRAWN	3	3
LOST	1	3
WIN %	56%	33%
GOALS AGAINST	13	10

Call 01865 337 533 to book

or visit the ticket office between 9.00am - 5.00pm
Monday - Friday and until kick off on match days

Cash is diverted to children needing protection from abuse



Campaigners in High Street, Banbury, including, front from left, Rio Prestidge, three, mum Laura Swaby, Jo Lovell and Jill Huish

'NO REST FOR PROTESTERS'

PARENTS campaigning to save Oxfordshire's children's centre say they will not rest until the final decision is made in February.

It comes after more than 150 people took to the streets to voice their concerns over the planned closure of all 44 of the county's centres to save money in Banbury town centre at the weekend.

Oxfordshire County Council plans to cut the service to save more than £8m and instead offer a single service for youngsters up to the age of 19.

The proposals have led to thousands of parents in the county protesting about the service they call a "lifesaver". Jill Huish, who uses the children's centre in Britannia Road, Banbury, spearheads the campaign to save the children's centres.

Former chef Ms Huish, who has a three-year-old son and one-year-old daughter, said she thought the protest on Saturday went well.

The 33-year-old added: "I didn't expect that many people. We had our big banner out and did several speeches. We are building a big presence."

"I have given out more than 1,000 con-

Michael Race
mrace@nqo.com

sultation packs and we will continue to campaign up to February.

"The people of Banbury responded well. We spoke to people who weren't even parents who were on board."

"The message is about how vital these services are is getting out there."

"We may take a little break for Christmas but we have more protests planned well into the New Year."

The county council has said tough decisions will have to be made in order to get a "balanced budget".

At a meeting last month, Jim Leivers, director of children's services at the county council, said an unprecedented number of youngsters requiring protection from abuse and neglect had forced councillors to cut funding for children's centres.

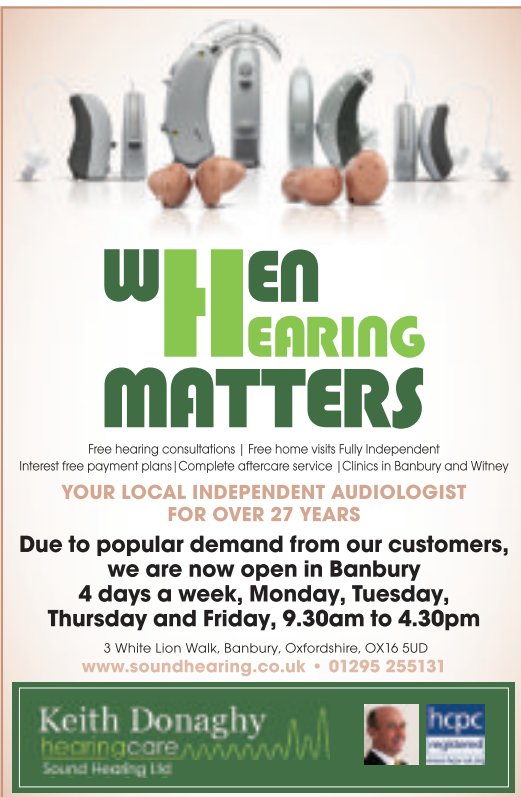
Mr Leivers said 634 youngsters were now on child protection plans - "more than ever before."

Since 2010 there has also been a 63 per cent increase in statutory child protection investigations - made

when a child is considered to be at risk of "significant harm" - compared to just 23 per cent nationally.

According to a report, the rapid increase is because of greater public awareness of abuse after high-profile child sexual exploitation cases - such as Operation Bullfinch in Oxford - and closer working between county authorities.

But Mr Leivers said the growing demand and "eye-watering" budget cuts meant there was now "no financial alternative" to axing universal services it was not legally required to provide.



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Free dog tags

N OXON: Dog owners can get their pets tagged free through a new initiative run by Cherwell District Council.

The Tag and Bag scheme is open to all owner to get a free identity tag for their dog's collar, and some free waste bags.

It is a legal requirement for all dogs to wear a tag in public, and failure to do so can result in a £25 fine.

District council senior dog warden Neil Greenway said: "Owners can choose between spending time taking advantage of our free service or spending money paying a fine."

For more information visit the district council website at cherwell.gov.uk.

Attack in club

BANBURY: Two men were attacked with a bottle while queuing for their coats at a Banbury nightclub on Sunday, November 29.

The victims, aged 19 and 20, were struck from behind at Moo Moos club in the High Street.

They were both treated for head injuries at Horton General Hospital before being discharged.

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses to the attack, which happened at about 3.10am.

Anyone with information can call the police on 101.

Football thieves

BANBURY: Cash and electrical goods were stolen from the changing rooms at Kings Field in Bodicote.

During a football match on November 28, money and phones were stolen from the changing rooms in White Post Road.

The burglary occurred between 3pm and 4pm while players were out on the pitch.



Banbury sisters Tiffany Collins, 11 and Jordan Collins, 15, were among those getting their hands dirty

Youngsters help create calendar in finger paint

YOUNGSTERS got their hands covered in paint to help the Grimsbury Youth Action Team create 12 months of art for a calendar.

The youth group rallied support from local children to help them create a finger-painting calendar to raise funds for the group.

Grimsbury Youth Action Team is supported by the charity OYAP Trust which works with young people across Bicester and Banbury.

One of the event's organisers and member of Grimsbury Youth Action Team Jordan Collins, 15, said: "We came up with the idea a little while ago to make the calendars using finger paints."

"We decided to do it with a younger age group as they would enjoy the finger painting."

"We managed to get one picture for each month and had a set theme for each picture, so the obvious Christmas or Easter, then the beach or the zoo for summer months."

"The calendars are then going to be digitally printed and then sold on."

The event on Saturday, December 5, was hosted at Naomi's Café Bar in Bridge Street and ran from 11am to 3pm.

With support from the charity OYAP, the youth action team hopes to sell on the finger print calendars to raise money.

This money will then go towards the next youth project for the team which it is hoped may include a photography project based around the people of Grimsbury.

'Green economy' set for £31m cash boost

County council aims to create 'Earthlab', open country park and have more bicycles for hire

Matt Oliver
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AN investment plan of £31m in Oxfordshire's green economy including cycle improvements has been unveiled by county leaders.

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) said the plan was part of a vision to more than double the size of the industry focused on the environment, creating thousands of jobs and cutting carbon emissions.

According to the LEP, with the right investment over the

next five years, Oxfordshire could become a leader of the field in the UK.

More than 30 schemes are proposed by businesses, councils, the universities and wildlife trusts, including: A programme to 'turn around' Oxfordshire's forestry sector and make it worth up to £15m; A new £6.5m 'Earthlab' run by the Earth Trust and Oxford University near Didcot by 2018; Cycle improvements totalling £3.75m in Oxford over the next five years; A £1.1m 'Cherwell Country Park' of 36 acres, located north of Banbury.

The proposals are contained within a draft 'strategic environmental and economic investment plan', published by the LEP and Oxfordshire County Council.

LEP chief executive Nigel Tipple said: "In Oxfordshire

we have a vibrant and potentially very viable environment sector and we want to expand that for both our own benefit and that of the UK."

"The timescale of the plan is also wholly consistent with the way devolution deals have been announced and we would hope it can be part of forthcoming discussions."

The plan recommends the creation of an Oxfordshire Energy Strategy to assess the needs of each district and how demand can be met.

Capital projects put forward include a £6.5m 'Earth-Lab' at the Earth Trust in Little Wittenham, which would carry out research into forestry, agriculture, food production and data analysis, supported by Oxford University and Abingdon and Witney College.

In Oxford, the plan says

£1.1m of improvements for cyclists and pedestrians in the Oxpens should be put in place.

This would tie in with £1.45m of other cycle improvements across the city, as well as a major expansion of the Oxonbike cycle hire scheme that would see the number of hire stations increased from 11 to as many as 100.

A £500,000 'Oxfordshire forestry programme' is also to be established by the Sylvia Foundation and county council, to boost the timber industry, which it is hoped could be worth up to £15m.

There are also plans to "maximise the capital value" of woodland in the county's areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) and establish so-called 'wood stations' to deal with waste wood and recycling.

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Drained lock gives up deep secrets

Coins, handcuffs and phones found as 1,500 flock to get glimpse of history before canal is refilled

Naomi Herring
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NOT many people can say they have seen a lock from the depths of within, unless you were in Banbury this weekend.

Around 10 mobile phones from days-gone-by, discarded pennies and even handcuffs were among the items found as Banbury Lock was drained.

A team from the Canal and River Trust set to work on repairing and cleaning up the gates of Banbury Lock and offered a view to nearly 1,500 passers-by.

The Canal and River Trust campaigns manager, Claire Risino, said: "On Saturday, we had around 585 people come down and Sunday another 860, which was incredible.

"It is brilliant that so many people wanted to come along to look at the Banbury Lock. One lady even said she had come down to look at the brickwork which her grandad had helped repair



after the bomb hit in 1940. We are really glad we can offer these open days to the people of Banbury to learn more about the canal."

Throughout December the trust has been carrying out £16,000 emergency repairs to make the lock gates watertight, outside The Mill Arts Centre.

Over the weekend, shoppers were

given tours walking along the waterways and were able to see up close and personal the 200-year-old brickwork.

Canal historians were also on hand to talk about the Banbury Lock and its past including when it was hit during a bombing raid in September 1940.

The trust also put on activities for children at The Mill Arts Centre.

Canal and River Trust region waterway manager Vicky Martin said: "Our open days are a fascinating showcase which give local people the chance to get a behind-the-scenes look at some amazing craftsmanship.

"To walk along the bed of a 237-year-old lock, see the waterways' original 18th-century design and understand the scale of the work we do to care for it, is a real privilege."

Tooley's Boat Yard – the oldest working dry dock on the inland waterways – also opened its doors for visitors to see inside as part of the project.

The lock was refilled on Monday.



Clockwise from main picture: Claire Risino, of the Canal and River Trust, with canal maintenance man Kev Moore; Nigel Powell, a customer operations supervisor, front, with carpenter Neil Wright; coins found in the emptied lock; mobile phones collected



Businesses urged to get running for sick children

FIRMS are being asked to take part in next year's OX5 Run to raise money for Oxford Children's Hospital.

Local firms raised thousands last year and the hospital charity is pushing for more of the same after our sister paper, the Oxford Mail, launched its fundraising campaign.

Director of fundraising Jayne Ozanne encouraged businesses to compete for the Corporate Cup which goes to the best fundraisers.

She said: "It's such a fun way of getting colleagues together, doing something they all can feel really good about, and also having a little bit of healthy competition in the process.

"The hospital is run on great teamwork, and we're keen to encourage and celebrate this."

Oxford recruitment firm Allen Associates, which is sponsoring the race for the eighth year running, will once again take part on April 17 at Blenheim Palace.

Managing director Kate Allen said: "The OX5 Run is the highlight of our year.

"It brings our team together and we enjoy the healthy competition and the daily training stories as everyone prepares for the run.

"We would urge the business community to continue to get behind the run this year and enter teams.

"It's a great way to get fit and you can raise money for sick children at the same time."

Estate agents Scott Fraser came out on top last year after raising more than £3,500.

Managing director David Blythman said: "A couple of women on our team suggested it and it grew from there.

"Local businesses have a responsibility to get involved in the community.

"We all really enjoyed it and the sponsorship became quite competitive."

More than £850,000 has been raised for medical equipment, play specialists and toys for the county's most poorly children since the race began in 2003.

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School set to receive new £2m building

Learning and sports facilities will be built at Hill View Primary

Sophie Mogridge
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PUPILS in Banbury are set to benefit from a £2 million scheme which will bring new learning and sports facilities to their school.

Hill View Primary School is to get a new school hall, group rooms and additional accommodation in a new two-storey building.

The expansion is being funded by Oxfordshire County Council to help address the need for more pupil places in the area.

Operations director for the project Josh Lavis said: "This project will ensure there are sufficient pupil places to cope with the rising demand from families in the local area, whilst also reducing the pressure on neigh-

bouring schools.

"The new facilities will provide a modern learning environment with more room for activities that can be enjoyed by current and future pupils of Hill View Primary School."

The project, designed by Capita, will also involve the creation of a multi-use games area and additional parking with a solar panel roof.

The construction programme is expected to finish in summer 2016.

Steve Burgess, area manager for Stepnell, which was appointed to construct the facilities, said: "With a considerable track record in new-build education work and of delivering schemes in occupied 'live' settings, our team is delighted to be helping create these

superb educational and sports facilities for pupils and teaching staff at Hill View Primary.

"We are continuing to win leading projects in the area using our regional supply chain and management staff."

Meanwhile, an Oxfordshire project is hoping to capture the imagination of young children by introducing them to building and construction.

Trade School, which was created by Richard Francis, will be visiting youngsters aged between six and nine across the county.

They will be encouraged to work on "changing attitudes of a generation about construction".

Each Trade School experience day covers many aspects of building, from historical and modern methods and technology to maths science, health and safety, waste management and renewables.

Shoppers learn ice sculpting



Charnel Johnson, 16, was among those to try their hand at ice sculpting

GLOVED shoppers carved their way into the festive season at the weekend as they learnt the art of ice sculpting.

A giant ice star sculpture greeted residents at the Banbury Gateway shopping centre.

Passers-by had an ice sculpting

masterclass before having a go on their own.

One resident to try sculpting was Charnel Johnson, 16, of Banbury.

She said: "It was fun. They showed us how to do it and then let me carve into the sculpture with a chisel.

"I found it interesting as I had never done it before."

The masterclass by expert Jamie Hamilton was part of the centre's My Wild Winter Christmas events.

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust talked about wildlife and gardens in winter.

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Doctor put forward for hero award

Dr Lakhoo shortlisted after mum nominated paediatric consultant

Annabal Bagdi
abagdi@nqo.com

A MOTHER is "delighted" after the medic who helped treat her daughter's dangerous facial birthmark was shortlisted as one of the county's Hospital Heroes.

Lynn Bailey feared the worst when five-year-old Beatrice developed the mark which threatened her eyesight.

She decided to nominate paediatric consultant Kokila Lakhoo for a Hospital Heroes award to celebrate her extraordinary work after the medic helped put all her worries to rest.

Mrs Bailey, of Banbury, said: "We are so pleased and she really deserves it."

"I think it's important to reward people when they have made a big effort and, sometimes, things are done behind the scenes that we don't always know about."

"I don't know where we would be without her to be honest."

Mrs Bailey said her daughter was born "perfectly fine" in January 2010 but started to develop a large birthmark on her left cheek within a couple of days.

She said it grew "rather rapidly" and began to "protrude" into Beatrice's left eye. The blood-filled sac then invaded the whole of her eye socket and started squashing her eye.

Mrs Bailey said Beatrice was about five weeks old when their GP told the family to visit the John Radcliffe Hospital, where they later met Dr Lakhoo.

She said Beatrice underwent four years of treatment using beta-blocker propranolol to help shrink the size of the birthmark.

The youngster also needed laser surgery last year and further surgery this



April to clean her "eye channels".

After several appointments with Dr Lakhoo and at the Oxford Eye Hospital, Beatrice now only needs annual check-ups.

Mrs Bailey said the family's ordeal could have been much more difficult if Dr Lakhoo was not constantly by their side.

She added: "I think it is really important for other parents who have been



Lynn Bailey and Beatrice, who nominated Kokila Lakhoo, left, a consultant paediatric surgeon at the John Radcliffe

in a similar situation to raise awareness [of the work of medics] and that's one of the main reason why we are doing it.

"I wasn't coping until this amazing lady walked into the room and all my fears disappeared."

"Dr Lakhoo guided us through the treatment. Nothing has ever been too much trouble – she reassured us and nurtured us as new parents with a sick child."

Pupils do good deeds for others

IN THE spirit of the festive period, schoolchildren in Banbury are being encouraged to do a good deed every day in the run-up to Christmas.

Pupils at Sibford School have all been given a Good Deeds Advent Calendar by their teachers, and are encouraged to help as many people as possible.

The challenge began at the start of December, and so far the deeds carried out include making beds for a whole family, polishing shoes, making dinner and washing dishes.

One pupil, whose mum broke her wrist, took on making tea for his family, washing and drying up.

This is the first time that the junior school, which teaches children aged three to 11, has taken part.

Assistant headteacher Edward Rossiter said: "After Christmas we will be asking the children to bring their calendars back into school so that we can see just how many different good deeds have been done."

Elderly man conned

POLICE are warning elderly people in Oxfordshire to beware of cons after an 87-year-old man was ordered to a cash machine by two men posing as builders.

According to Thames Valley Police, two men called at a property in Brookside, Watlington, between 2pm and 4pm on November 26.

They told their victim they had been before to repair the roof and needed a large amount of cash up front to finish. The victim drove one man to the Nationwide and paid the money by bank transfer and cash. After getting the money, neither man returned.

Police want to speak with anyone who saw the victim and the fraudster at the car park of the building society, in a blue Ford Fiesta, at about 3pm.

Takeaway could be fined £40k in immigrant case

A TAKEAWAY shop in Banbury could be facing a fine of up to £40,000 after one man was arrested and another escorted out last week by Home Office Immigration Enforcement officers.

The government team visited the BFC Takeaway, in Middleton Road, on Thursday, December 3, at about 5pm.

Staff were questioned about whether they had the legal right to live and work in the UK.

Afterwards, Home Office spokeswoman Catherine Ellis said a 49-year-old Pakistani man, who had overstayed his visit visa, was arrested.

She said he had been ordered to report regularly to the Home Office while his case was progressed.

She added that a 27-year-old Pakistani man, who was also escorted from the premises, had been found to have no permission to work in the UK.

BFC Takeaway was served with an official notice, warning it that a civil penalty of up to £20,000 could be

imposed for every illegal worker found by the Home Office.

To avoid a financial penalty, the employer would have to demonstrate that the correct right to work document checks had been carried out before the worker was taken on, such as seeing a passport or Home Office document.

The Home Office assistant director of immigration enforcement, Carol Scarr, said: "Using illegal labour is not a victimless offence."

"It undercuts honest businesses, cheats the Treasury and can involve the exploitation of some of society's most vulnerable people."

"Employers must carry out simple pre-work checks on their staff in order to avoid a civil penalty."

Ms Scarr added that its investigations into illegal workers would continue and added: "I would urge anyone with specific and detailed information about suspected immigration abuse to get in touch."

£100k police fund reopens

A FRESH round of applications for a £100,000 grant from Thames Valley Police has officially opened.

The money comes from the Police Property Act (PPA) Fund, a set of funds created from money recovered by the police and the sale of stolen goods or property that cannot be returned to owners.

It will be given to organisations that work and can contribute towards lowering rates of reoffending in the Thames Valley.

This follows the first round of grants in April when TVP handed out £158,105 to 34 voluntary and community groups that helped protect vulnerable people.

Applications close at 5pm on Thursday, December 31.

Projects considered include offender rehabilitation programmes and drugs and alcohol services. All applicants will need to give clear evidence of how their project or activity contributes to lowering crime.

See tinyurl.com/j5c5w7l for details.

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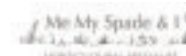
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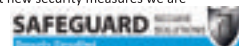
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Mayor's thanks as residents donate hundreds of toys to appeal for children

HUNDREDS of toys have been donated to Banbury Town Mayor Tony Mepham's Christmas appeal, prompting a thank you for the "massive" response.

The donations will go to families in need to make the festive season a happier one for children who might not get a visit from Santa Claus.

The toys will be distributed by the Britannia Road Family Centre running up to Christmas.

Mr Mepham said: "This is an extremely worthwhile appeal which makes Christmas special for children whose parents are unable to afford presents.

"I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the toy appeal this year. We have a huge collection and a wide variety of toys that will suit all ages."

The town mayor is carrying out another Christmas appeal for victims of domestic violence.

He is asking for donations of goods and gifts for women and children at the Banbury Refuge.

Donations can be taken to Banbury Town Hall between 9am and 4pm, until tomorrow.

Items needed include nappies, clothes and dried or tinned food.



Mayor Tony Mepham pictured with some of the donated toys handed to his appeal by the people of Banbury

Warning over bogus police

BOGUS police officers are targeting elderly people in Oxfordshire to gain their trust and defraud them.

Thames Valley Police say there has been a spate of incidents where criminals have phoned or turned up at homes, claiming to be officers.

Their usual tack is to say they are investigating a fraud against the elderly person. The victim is asked for bank cards and PIN numbers "for investigation purposes".

If contact is made by phone, the fake officer tells the victim someone will be over to collect the evidence.

Police said in one case a victim was told to withdraw all their money from a bank. The suspect stayed in the house while instructions were followed.

A police spokesman said: "Before letting anyone into your home who claims to be from any law enforcement agency, ask to see their identity card and check it by calling 101.

"Ask if they can attend at a pre-arranged time, when a family member or friend can be present.

"The police will never ask for your PIN or passwords. The police will never request that you withdraw or transfer any money to them."

Tax rise could be used to fund care

Council says that four per cent increase 'seriously considered' to fix budget

Luke Sproule
lsproule@nqo.com

A COUNCIL tax rise of four per cent is being "seriously considered" by Oxfordshire County Council after the government said it would lift restrictions to help fund elderly care.

County council leader Ian Hudspeth said the option was being looked at, but added: "I recognise that residents in Oxfordshire have not had a wage rise of four per cent and would not assume that is what we will do."

The county council revealed on Monday it could face an extra cost of between £4m and £10m next year due to the introduction of the National Living Wage by the Government, meaning care providers could charge it more for services.

A council tax rise of an extra two per cent would generate about £26.6m over the next four years for the local authority – leaving finance bosses unsure about whether it will cover the wage rise or not even be enough, if the true cost turns out to be more than £6.6m a year.

Until last month, councils were banned from raising council tax by two per cent or more without putting the proposals to a public vote. But George Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in his Autumn Statement in November that councils could raise taxes by an extra two per cent without a referendum to fund under-pressure adult social care services.



The Age UK Oxfordshire chief executive, Paul Cann, has expressed his concerns over cutbacks to adult care services

Mr Hudspeth said no decision would be made until more details were clear; with the county council expecting its Government funding for 2016 to be announced at the end of this month.

Among criticisms of proposed cutbacks has been the potential effect on reduced funding for adult social care services across Oxfordshire.

Two leading charities have expressed their "grave concern" in a response to a consultation on £50m of fresh budget savings proposed by Oxfordshire County Council.

Age UK Oxfordshire and Action for Carers Oxfordshire said they were worried about the "damaging" effect they would have on vulnerable people.

They urged the local author-

ity to "pause" what it was doing and attached a petition signed by 737 people who the charities said were "appalled at what the council is proposing".

Age UK Oxfordshire chief executive Paul Cann, pictured, said: "I continue to think that this is the most serious threat to community services for the vulnerable I have ever seen."

The county council has proposed 31 savings in adult social care, amounting to about £21m.

They include funding reductions for elderly day services, transport to day services, dementia support, falls prevention and financial support for carers.

But in their response, Age UK Oxfordshire and Action for Carers Oxfordshire said: "The proposals are economically counter-productive.

"Removing low-cost early intervention services which maintain people in active, independent life in their community will clearly store up costly problems.

"The council is flying in the face of the hard evidence."

They also claimed the "dominant" way the consultation had been carried out online was "unfairly discriminatory and inaccessible" to elderly people.

County council spokesman Paul Smith said: "There will be no final decisions until February. Our financial reality is that the council is already having to save £290m from 2010 to 2018 and we may have to save up to £50m on top of that.

"We already spend half of our overall budget on two per cent of the population – those in care – and believe that may rise to 75 per cent by 2020."

Mr Smith added that a meeting was being set up between senior council figures and people from the adult social care sector to discuss the concerns.

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'I am always grateful for my Phone Friend's call'

88-year-old Daphne finds comfort in her weekly chats with an Age UK volunteer

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

EVEN those keeping their spirits high in the face of loneliness can feel in need of a pick-me-up sometimes – especially when they can't get out.

Banbury resident Daphne Griffiths, 88, is barely able to leave the house after a fall more than a decade ago left her with 13 screws in her leg.

Although the former Land Girl has stayed positive and tries to keep busy, her weekly call from Age UK Oxfordshire volunteer Nigel can brighten a bleak day.

Her situation is being highlighted as part of the Lonely This Christmas campaign run by our sister paper, the *Oxford Mail*.

She said: "Sometimes I feel lonely. I look at the television and that takes a bit of it off."

"But it's nice that I have someone to call me; that's a big help."

Mrs Griffiths joined the Land Army in Hereford during the Second World War.

After the war she met and married

Harry Griffiths and the couple had a son, Eric, now 66. She took up work as a home help.

Mr Griffiths fought a long battle with cancer and died in 1982.

Mrs Griffiths said: "He didn't want to go into a home, so he stayed at home until he died. I gave up my job and looked after him."

"My brother Douglas bought the bungalow here in Banbury and we lived together for four years but then he had a heart attack."

Some years before losing her brother Mrs Griffiths was in London visiting relatives when she fell heavily down the stairs, breaking her leg in two places.

After returning to Banbury with a set of metal screws in her leg, Mrs Griffiths now rarely leaves the house.

She gets help with the shopping twice a week from her son at the Morrisons store in Swan Close.

She said: "It's a bit heavy and it makes me go over on one side a bit. I'm quite slow and I don't go out on my own."

"I would like to go out more but I won't chance it. I don't want to break anything else."

Instead Mrs Griffiths receives a call on Friday afternoons from Nigel, who may be the first person she has spoken to all day. She said: "It means a lot to get a call from Nigel and I always thank him for it."



Daphne Griffiths receives a call once a week from Age UK Oxfordshire

Litter pickers to clean for Queen

RESIDENTS are being asked to get their litter-pickers ready to Clean for the Queen ahead of Her Majesty's 90th birthday.

Banbury Town Council is joining the national campaign to spruce up the town for the occasion.

The initiative includes people litter-picking in the area where they live and the council also hopes to tidy up Salt Way between White Post Road, Bodicote and Bloxham Road.

The leader of the town council, Kieron Mallon, said: "Everyone has a responsibility to keep their communities tidy and this campaign is a tremendous opportunity for us to improve the quality of our streets and public spaces."

"It is a return to days gone by when householders took responsibility for their areas by sweeping pavements and mowing grass verges outside their homes."

"I hope this will capture the imagination of residents and lead to a cleaner, tidier Banbury."

"I hope schools will join the campaign. It will be a practical lesson on the importance of keeping the area looking neat and tidy."

The national initiative has been launched by *Country Life* magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy. It hopes to tidy up the country before the Queen's big day on Thursday, April 21, when she will turn 90.

Organisers will host the big clean-up from Friday, March 4, to Sunday, March 6. Cherwell District Council will give litter-pickers and bags to those who want to get involved.

Mr Mallon said: "This is an example of council and residents working together for the good of the community."

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The recycling centre at Alkerton, outside Banbury, was one of the ones on the county council's closures list

Fly-tip fears hold up closures plan

90% of people consulted opposed service cuts due to longer travelling times

Matt Oliver & Luke Sproule
lsroule@nqo.com

A DECISION on whether to close half of the county's recycling centres has been put off for at least a year by councillors, following fears of a surge in fly-tipping.

Oxfordshire County Council said it "recognised concerns" about plans to reduce the number of household waste recycling centres but would still press ahead with reduced opening hours from 2017.

But county council Green Party leader David Williams said cutting opening times was a "false economy" which would not stop people dumping waste.

More than 2,500 people replied to the local authority's public consultation to say they were against the proposals which could have seen four pits closed and another two replaced.

County council deputy leader Rodney Rose admitted the strength of feeling had been "a surprise".

He said: "The consultation showed how much people love recycling centres. We are trying to listen to what they want.

"What we have to ask now is, if



Green councillor David Williams

over the next few years the usage drops, will the need be so great? "The bottom line is that four centres would still be cheaper than seven."

The county council had proposed closing tips at Ardley and Alkerton and replacing Dix Pit near Stanton Harcourt and Oakley Wood near Wallingford in a bid to save £350,000.

Redbridge tip in the Old Abingdon Road, Oxford and in Stevenston Road, Drayton, near Abingdon, could also be replaced.

Mr Rose added he was "suspicious" of claims it would lead to more fly-tipping.

The £350,000 savings were already agreed in the county council's budget and it also emerged on Monday that it would pay for this by raiding £500,000 in sub-

dies it pays to Oxfordshire's five district councils for kerbside collection of recycling.

It said the payments were not statutory and were no longer affordable.

Mr Williams criticised the county council's decision to cut opening hours and to scrap the subsidies.

He said: "It is a bit pointless. By just cutting the hours you will get people dumping things outside the centres.

"It is a false economy. The fly-tipping risk will still be there."

The county council said 91 per cent of the 2,770 consultation responses opposed the changes both due to fly-tipping and because of longer journey times to the centres.

Any decision to close the sites in the county is now likely to be delayed to 2017 at the earliest. The council says it will look at gradually bringing in changes over the next 10 years.

The county council will also look again at options for centres elsewhere in the county.

Rose Hill resident Don Young, 77, said he was pleased the county council had listened to people's concerns.

The retired street cleaner of Williamson Way said: "It is good that they have listened to people for a change."

The sites cost £1.2m a year to run and residents made more than one million visits to them in 2014/15.

ARTISTS HELP WINDOW BID

N OXON: Artists are rallying together for a Winter Festivals of the World event to raise £8,000 to repair the east window of St Mary Magdalene Church in Balscote.

The free event, at Balscote Village Hall and Church on Saturday and Sunday, from 2pm to 6pm, will feature Oxfordshire Artweek regulars.

COUNCIL OFFERING GRANTS

N OXON: Banbury Town Council is inviting applications from voluntary and community groups for grants.

Groups must download an application form from banbury.gov.uk, which asks how its activities help people in the community. Grants are not given to help with staff costs or hobbies. Forms must be submitted by December 17.

DEMENTIA STUDY GRANT

OXON: A donation of £100,000 has been presented by Oxfordshire Freemasons to help fund research into new tools for dementia diagnosis.

The research team at Oxford University wants to develop a blood test for Alzheimer's.

Initial research discovered a protein 'fingerprint' in blood.

STORY CONTEST DEADLINE

OXON: The deadline for entries to a short story contest is January 4, 2016.

Winning stories will be published as eBooks for library members to borrow and two will get an android tablet.

Categories are stories by adults and by writers aged 11 to 17. Stories can be 500 to 3,000 words. See oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries for details.

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Festive tribute tree to raise funds

LOST loved ones will be remembered at Bicester Avenue Garden Centre over the festive season, while money is raised for charity.

The Oxford Road garden centre will see the return of the Memory Tree as a way to remember and celebrate lost loved ones in the lead up to Christmas.

Residents will be able to write the name or a memory of their loved one on a star to then hang

on the memory tree, in return for a small donation to the store's chosen charity this year Marie Curie.

Jason Slaymaker, of Bicester Avenue Garden Centre, said:

"We are delighted to have the Memory Tree back in the centre this year.

"With a small donation to Marie Curie, all customers can write a name or memory of a loved one on a star, and hang it on the tree.

"We often find ourselves thinking of loved ones no longer with us at Christmas, so this is out way of remembering them whilst raising vital money for charity."

The Christmas charity theme will not stop there as the store will be selling snowflake decorations for £1 with all proceeds going to Marie Curie.

Wyeval Garden stores will also be donating Christmas trees to hospices around the country.

Traders want free parking at Christmas

Stallholders' leader says councils make millions of pounds

Luke Sproule
lsproule@nqo.com

2010/11 the county council made a loss of £45,000.

TRADERS have called on councils to make the most of their big parking profits by offering more days when it is free to park in Oxford city centre.

Oxford City Council, which runs car parks and Redbridge, Seacourt and Pear Tree park-and-rides, made £4.9m compared to £4.8m the year before, giving it the 35th largest profit of 353 local authorities in England.

Oxfordshire County Council, which is responsible for on-street parking and Thornhill and Water Eaton park-and-rides, made a profit of £2.1m in the 2014/15 financial year – up from £1.9m the year before.

Just five years ago in

She wants them to offer free parking like last Saturday when parking at all city council park-and-ride sites was free to promote Small Business Saturday.

She said: "With the roadworks going on, parking charges are an added problem."

"I would like to think if they are making that kind of money they could soften the blow by offering some free parking on days coming up to Christmas."

"I know there will always be an argument that the money is required for housing and

so on but if you want to maintain a vibrant city centre businesses have to have some help."

City council board member for transport Alex Hollingsworth said: "We have been using parking charges to change people's behaviour for 40 years."

"We charge more in the city centre and less at park-and-rides to make public transport the most attractive option, and improve city centre congestion and air quality."

Oxfordshire County Council spokesman Paul Smith said the authority charged less for park-and-ride sites than for on-street parking to cut city centre congestion.

Mr Smith said on-street parking was priced to allow people to stop for short periods of time, for example to load or unload or just go into one shop.

Both councils said surpluses were re-invested.

Christmas trees boost charity



The Rev Stephen Fletcher takes a close look at some entries for this year's Adderbury Christmas tree festival

A CHURCH was filled with Christmas trees over the weekend to raise money for charity.

As many as 40 trees were decorated from tip to trunk by Adderbury businesses, pubs and organisations to help raise funds for St Mary's Church and Katharine House Hospice.

Now in its second year, the village's Christmas tree festival encourages local businesses and organisations to sponsor and

decorate a tree for the cost of £30.

The Women Institute's tree was crowned the champion by this year's visitors, who were invited to vote for their favourite tree in the display.

The Rev Stephen Fletcher said: "It was very sparkly and captured people's imaginations. They worked very hard on it and had spent a whole evening working on it at a WI meeting."

"This event brings the

community together and the main thing is that local businesses like the garage or the pubs get involved."

Last year the festival raised more than £3,300.

Mr Fletcher added: "We hope to top what we raised last year."

"It has grown in popularity and the church looks even more spectacular with all the decorated trees inside it. It brings out the natural architecture."

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There really is no one quite like this shocking Grandma

GRANDMA (15, 79 mins) A comedy romance with Lily Tomlin, Julia Garner, Marcia Gay Harden and Sam Elliott.

Director: Paul Weitz

IN 1980, a group of children from St Winifred's Primary School in Stockport topped the UK Christmas singles chart with *There's No One Quite Like Grandma*.

The cherubic moppets rejoiced: "She always has a smile, she never hurries us along..."

The lead character in Paul Weitz's delightful comedy drama sticks up two fingers to that beatific image of patience and enduring grace in old age.

Portrayed with gusto by Lily Tomlin, this grandma is a poty-mouthed whirling dervish, who spits in the eye of political correctness, clobbers a rude teenager with a hockey stick and openly discusses her bodily functions, oblivious to the potential embarrassment of any passers-by.

It's a meaty, eye-catching role full of vim that could deservedly land the Detroit-born actress a second Oscar nomination.

The film is also blessed with a nuanced supporting performance from Julia Garner as a granddaughter, who acts tough but is ill-prepared for the harsh reality of life when it bites her and draws blood.

Lesbian poet Elle (Lily Tomlin) is slowly coming to terms with the death of her long-term partner, Vi.

She lashes out and coldly terminates a fledgling romance by telling her girlfriend: "You're a footnote."

Soon after, Elle's 18-year-old granddaughter, Sage (Julia Garner), arrives in search of money.

"I need \$630. I'm pregnant," reveals the teenager.

Elle doesn't have the money, but that doesn't stop her from jumping into her car with Sage and tearing around Los Angeles to call in unpaid debts.

They visit Sage's slacker boyfriend, whose scruffy appearance and laissez faire attitude to birth control rankles Elle.

Further pit-stops include a transgender tattoo artist, Elle's ex-husband and Sage's workaholic mother Judy.

As the deadline for the abortion approaches, Sage's emotional dam breaks.

Grandma is a slight, yet entertaining character study, anchored by Tomlin's formidable turn as a fiercely independent woman, who continues to blaze a trail in her later years, aided by a script peppered with sparkling one-liners.

Weitz's unhurried and unfussy direction allows the focus to remain on the cast.

BY THE SEA (15, 122 mins) A drama/romance with Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie Pitt and Melanie Laurent. Director: Angelina Jolie Pitt

ACHINGLY cool style casts a disdainful glance at substance in Angelina Jolie Pitt's languorous examination of marital discord in a 1970s resort in the south of France.

The vicarious thrill of observing one of the world's most famous celebrity couples blur reality for their art as a husband and wife in turmoil, quickly evaporates when it becomes evident that the script and a robust plot are the least of the film's trifling concerns.

The period detail is impeccable, from the sleek convertible



Lily Tomlin is in the driving seat with a tour de force portrayal of a forceful and lively grandmother

that delivers the couple to their sun-baked Mediterranean idyll to the pristine designer luggage.

By The Sea opens with New York author Roland (Brad Pitt) and his wife Vanessa (Angelina Jolie Pitt) arriving at a hotel, where he hopes the sea air will unclog his writer's block. Tension between the couple is palpable.

The air of melancholy lifts when newlyweds check in to an adjacent suite and Vanessa discovers a hole in the wall that allows her to spy on the new arrivals.

Her fixation on the couple next door errs dangerously close to a voracious and all-consuming obsession.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



Cake Bookworm

Katherine Carlyle by Rupert Thomson, hardback by Corsair, £14.99 (ebook £8.99)

THE theme of this novel is how we shape our identity, and ultimately our destiny. Our protagonist, Katherine, was conceived by IVF and kept frozen for eight years until her parents decided they wanted her. Now a naive 19-year-old and due to start university, she's virtually an orphan; her mother has died of cancer and her father is often absent. She decides to disappear, dropping her phone into the river in Rome and travelling to Berlin. Convinced she's being sent celestial 'messages', she allows her interpretation of a series of random encounters to shape where she goes; a journey that takes her through Russia to Svalbard in Norway. En route she acts out conversations with her father and her daydreams start to merge with reality until the reader's left questioning what's fact and what's fiction.

Thomson's 10th novel starts as a floaty Amelie-esque adventure, and becomes darker as Katherine's need to experience life leads her into some dangerous territory. Although an acutely observed take on the growing pains of a teen on the cusp of a new life, Thomson's book leaves the reader cold with a protagonist who's unlikeable.

Midnight Sun by Jo Nesbo, hardback by Harvill Secker, £9.99 (ebook £6.99)

HARRY Hole did so much to establish Jo Nesbo as an international force in crime fiction, that he was always going to be a tough act to follow. There is something just not quite Jo Nesbo about the tale of a flawed hitman who can't quite pull off the job. This story of on-the-run Jon leaves the reader searching for something more, just like Jon's pursuers in Norway where the sun never sets. *Midnight Sun* has its moments, including the comical use of

a dead reindeer and a drug dealer who lives as a fishmonger. The plot sinks quickly and Jon fails to deliver as a character. The only endearing line is Jon's love affair with Lea and he does his best to mess that up.

Raymond Briggs: Notes From The Sofa, hardback by Unbound, £14.99 (ebook £9.99)

AWARD-winning author Raymond Briggs's work is synonymous with Christmas. His books include *The Snowman* and *Father Christmas*. In recent years, he has turned his hand to column, *Notes From The Sofa*, for *The Oldie*. He shares stories from his life. From a chicken-and-egg situation, where he rants about the responsibilities of being a chicken parent, to the sombre realities of family festivities in your seventies, Briggs brings his illustration style to each tale. This anthology is a chance to see modern life from the top end of the age spectrum, as he tackles all things digital.

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Concert filled with festive cheer

Townfolk come together for an evening of carols, music, and mince pies

Staff reporter
news@nqo.com

THE sounds of Christmas echoed around a packed Banbury Town Hall as more than 100 people sang carols, listened to festive music, ate mince pies and drank mulled wine.

They were taking part in a traditional Christmas concert to raise money for the Banbury branch of the Royal British Legion and the town mayor's charity fund.

Mayor Tony Mepham began the show with amusing stories of nativity plays that had not gone as planned. His chaplain, the Rev Sue Burchall, said a prayer for the people of Banbury.

The choirs of St Mary's and St Leonard's churches joined forces to sing carols and eight-year-old Dionne Sindayen played Christmas songs on the piano.

Town council leader Kieron Mallon sang *The Boar's Head Carol*, accompanied by a real boar's head served on a platter.

Chris Smithson, chairman of Banbury's Royal British Legion branch, read *The Night Before Christmas* and the Bodicote Handbell Ringers played seasonal pieces.

Jacob Collins played a *Good King Wenceslas* medley on the piano.



Mayor Tony Mepham tells of nativity plays gone awry



Members of the combined St Mary's and St Leonard's choirs



Eight-year-old Dionne Sindayen and Jacob Collins play piano



Some of the Bodicote Bellringers in action, above, and Kieron Mallon, whose performance was accompanied by a boar's head



Mr Mepham said: "This informal annual concert has always been a popular event in the run-up to

Christmas and this year was no exception. "It is an evening of Christmas mu-

sic and readings that get everyone into a seasonal frame of mind and it raises funds for good causes."



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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Christmas craft exhibition: The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Members of the Oxfordshire Craft Guild are exhibiting jewellery, textiles, ceramics, treasures and keepsakes, available for sale. 10am. Until December 23. 01993 811456.

Christmas gift fair: Vale and Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. A vibrant selection of art and craft work including original paintings, prints, textiles, scarves, jewellery, ceramics, original art printed cushions and tote bags. Until January 9.

FRIDAY

Charlbury Society: Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Barrie Trinder will giving a talk on the Victorian market town lodging houses. Refreshments at 7.30pm, talk at 8pm. Non-members £3, under 18s free.

Continental market: Cornhill, Market Place, Banbury. There will be 19 stalls, providing the sounds and scents of an authentic French 'marché', as well as traders selling produce from Spain, Italy and Morocco. 9am to 5.30pm.

SATURDAY

Scout bingo: Village Hall, Draycott Road, Southmoor. 1st Longworth Scout Group is organising this family bingo event. There is also a licensed bar, plus refreshments and raffles. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. Free entry. 01865 821266.

Table-top sale: Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. 11am. Entry 50p. Setting up for sellers from 10am, with pitches available from £6 (tables supplied) – call 01491 833938 to book.

Wrap it up: The Mix centre, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. Make your own gift boxes/ bags/ wrapping paper for Christmas. 2pm. Free. 07969 797322.

Ramblers' walk: Nine-mile walk to Loosley Row and Princes Risborough, meeting at the church in Bledlow at 9.30am. Bring a picnic lunch. There will be a pub stop at the end. 01844 339969.

Play John Lowe: Garsington Sports and Social Club, Denton Lane, Garsington. There will be a chance to play former World Darts champion John Lowe and ask him questions about his career. 6.30pm. It is a ticket-only event. £10 in advance from Rob on 01865 368022 or mobile 07801 150499.

Circular walk: Leisurely 4.5-mile walk, starting near the Red Lion pub, Stratton Audley, ref. SP608261, at 10am. Registered assistance dogs only. Pub stop at the end (no dogs allowed). Organised by Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers. 07527 758788.

Artists in conversation: Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot. Susan Wheeler and Diana Ashdown will be giving a demonstration of the printing process and offering the opportunity for visitors to ask questions. 1-3pm. It coincides with their ongoing exhibition at the arts centre, called Inked!. Free admission. 01235 515144.

Carols on the train: Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Chinnor. There will be a festive carol evening train ride with light refreshments. The Rev Maggie Thorne and the Rev Jennifer Locke will be on

board to lead the carols, readings and prayers. Train departs at 7pm for two trips, finishing at 9pm. Adults £10, over 60s £9, under 16s £1, under threes free. For details and to book places, see chinnorrailway.co.uk
The railway is also holding Santa Steam Specials on Saturday and Sunday. Every fare-paying child will receive a present from Santa and his elves. Adults £11, children £10.

Christmas tree festival: All Saints' Church, Church Street, Sutton Courtenay. Help judge all the entries and enjoy refreshments. The festival runs on Saturday from 10am-4pm and Sunday from noon-4pm. Adults £3, children £1.50. 01235 848292.

Willow workshop: Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage. Christine Brewster will demonstrate basket-making and how to make a willow star or wreath. Drop-in session from 2-4pm. £1-£5. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Christmas market: Blenheim Palace Sawmill, Combe Mill, Combe. Family event with lots of stalls. 11am. Free entry. The mill will also be open at the cost of £3. 07889 908525.

Christmas bazaar: Village Hall, Railway Lane, Littlemore. Santa will make an appearance from 1pm and there will be gift stalls, live music, draw and raffle at this event organised by St Mary and St Nicholas Church. 12pm. Free entry. 07880 944012.

SUNDAY

Santa's bus grotto: Oxford Bus Museum, Old Station Yard, Main Road, Long Hanborough. It is an additional fee of £3 per child to visit Santa in his grotto and receive a gift. The museum is open with more than 30 historic buses, a collection of bicycles and 20 vintage Morris vehicles on display from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Normal museum entrance fees are: adults £4.50, concessions £3.50 and children £2.50. There will be vintage bus rides at 12.15pm and 2.45pm. 01296 337622.

Music

THURSDAY

Blake: Cornerstone Arts Centre, Station Road, Didcot. The trio perform an eclectic range of Yuletide songs, taken from their debut Christmas album. 8pm. £19, concessions £17.50. 01235 515144.

FRIDAY

Carols by candlelight: Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. Traditional carol singing with a twist of folk and featuring a squeeze box, fiddle, whistle and bodhran, plus festive readings, mulled wine and mince pies. 7pm. Entry is by donation towards St Mary's Church and the museum. 01993 772602.

Three Pressed Men: St Mary the Virgin Church, Parsons Lane, Ewelme. The Oxfordshire group, leading exponents of the concertina and a variety of rarely seen instruments, including cutlery, will take a fresh look at some of the nation's finest traditional songs and melodies, with a nod to the festive season. 7.30pm. £10 including interval nibbles and wine. Book via 01491 824822.

Winter concert: Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney. Katherine Birtles (flute) and Jose Menor (piano) will perform music by Schubert, Poulenc, Prokofiev and others. £12, senior citizens £11 seniors, under 19s. Tickets available

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

on the door or in advance from Rapture at the Woolgate or Greenway Antiques in Corn Street. 7.30pm. 01993 702296.

Brize Singers: Methodist Church, High Street, Witney. The group will perform Christmas music and carols. 7.30pm. £6. 01993 703032.

R 'n' Beatles: The Northcourt, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. This tribute band plays the music of the Beatles from their early days. 7.30pm. £8 in advance, £10 on the door. 01235 856076.

Christmas concert: St Mary Magdalene Church, Park Street, Woodstock. Woodstock Music Society, with baritone Quentin Hayes, will perform a selection of pieces including *A Christmas Mass* by Ronald Corp, *Vom Himmel Hoch* by Mendelssohn and excerpts from *Christmas Oratorio* by JS Bach. Also on Saturday. 7.30pm. £13, concessions £12. 01993 812760.

SATURDAY

Handel's Messiah: St Mary's Church, Church Green, Witney. A massed choir and soloists will perform an abridged version of *Messiah* at 5pm. Free entry, with retiring collection in aid of church.

OSJ Voices: Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames. The choir will be performing its 25th anniversary concert with Christmas music including new compositions by its conductor Jeremy Jackman, *St Nicolas Cantata* by Benjamin Britten, plus other festive pieces. 7.30pm. Tickets £20-£37.50. 07775 904626.

Festive favourites: Yolanda Patterson Hall, St Helen and St Katharine School, Faringdon Road, Abingdon. Join Abbey Brass and Abingdon Concert Band for an evening of Christmas music. 7.30pm. £9, concessions £7, under-16s free. Tickets available from The Bookstore in the Bury Street precinct, Newbury Building Society in West St Helen Street or via EventBrite. com

Christmas music: Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon. Abingdon and District Music Society will perform a concert of seasonal music and carols, with plenty of opportunities for audience participation. The featured work will be Finzi's *In Terra Pax*. It will be followed by wine and mince pies. Admission is free but there will be a collection in aid of this year's ADMS-supported charity, the ME Association. 7.30pm. Free. 01235 521392.

Evening of readings and carols: SS Peter and St Paul Church, Market Place, Wantage. Wantage Choral Society's concert will mix carols, including audience participation, with seasonal readings by Jo Noble, the Young Company Director at Oxford Playhouse, and John Hunter. Festive drinks will be available in the interval. 7.30pm. £12 on the door / £10 in advance from Vale and Downland Museum and 01235 798349.

Performing Angels and Stars: Corn Exchange, Wallingford. The stage school presents its Christmas show. 2.30pm and 7pm. Adults £12, senior citizens £10, under 16s £10. 01491 825000.

Christmas concert: St Mary's Church, Church Street, Cholsey. Cranford Choral Society and Newbury Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble will perform Christmas music, including Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, highlights from Handel's *Messiah* and a selection of carols that everyone can join in. 7.30pm. £10, children £5. Tickets from www.cranfordchoral.org.uk, Higgs – the stationers in Castle Street, Wallingford, or on the door. 01491 824524.

Oxford Gospel Choir: Cornerstone Arts Centre, Station Road, Didcot. Expect a mixture of traditional and contemporary gospel sprinkled with pop – all with a Christmas twist and guaranteed to get toes tapping, hands clapping and your heart singing. 7.30pm. 01235 515144.

Carols by candlelight: St Peter's Church, Bainton Road, Bucknell. Featuring Phoenix Singers, with mulled wine and mince pies served in the interval. 7.30pm. Adults £16, under 16s free, on the door. 07774 615045.

Mudslide Morris and the Revelators: The Rock of Gibraltar, Enslow Bridge, near Blethingdon. Electrifying slide-led blues and boogie, for fans of Rory Gallagher, Canned Heat and Dr Feelgood. 9pm. 01869 331373.

SUNDAY

Carol concert: Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames. Join PACT's annual Christmas carol concert, where there will be performances from the Dorchester Abbey Choir, young soprano Erin Hughes, choir girl Rhean Legg and Reading Community Choir. A tea party is 4-5pm and concert runs from 5-6.30pm. Tickets must be reserved in advance via pactcharity.org/carols or call 0300 456 4800. They are free but donations to PACT (Parents and Children Together) are encouraged. The charity aims to strengthen families through community projects across the South East.

Christmas supper concert: Village Hall, Main Street, East Challow. Enjoy a tasty cold supper plus a performance by Wantage Concert Brass, with special guests U3A Ukulele Group. 7pm. £10 including supper. Tickets available from Regent Bookshop in Wantage, Grove Pharmacy, www.wantageband.org or 01235 770378.

A Victorian Christmas: St Nicolas Church, Market Place, Abingdon. Pavlova wind quintet will perform music by Sullivan, Elgar, Holst and plus carols. It features Chris Britton (flute), Carolyn King (oboe), Barbara Stuart (clarinet), Jenny Morgan (horn), Simon Payne (bassoon). 3pm. £10/£9. 07775 904626.

Christmas concert: St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Charlbury. The group vOx will perform old and new festive music, sung a cappella. 7pm. £10, students and under 18s £5.

Carols by candlelight: Methodist Church, Bridge Street, Bampton. Evening carol service lit by candles with the choir from Bampton Primary School. 6pm. Free entry. 01993 702561.

TUESDAY

Ben Holder: Village Hall, Cote Road, Aston. The popular jazz violinist, singer and pianist brings his fun-filled brand of jazzy Christmas music with Jez Cook on guitars, Paul Jefferies on double bass and Uke bass and Malcolm Garrett on drums. 7.30pm. £12.50. 07710 545555.

Singing for fun: Methodist Church, Bridge Street, Bampton. Enjoy singing a large range of songs for fun in an informal setting and raise money for charity. Words provided. 8pm. £3. 01993 702561.

Comedy

FRIDAY

Frankie Boyle: New Theatre, Oxford. The controversial comedian is on tour with his latest show *Hurt Like You've Never Been Loved*. Not suitable for under 16s. Tickets £27. See atgtickets.com/oxford

Film

THURSDAY

The Golden Dream (12): Abingdon Health and Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. The tale of three young Guatemalan economic migrants trying to travel to the USA via Mexico. Screening organised by the Abingdon College and District Film Society. 7.45pm. £6. 01235 521976.

SUNDAY

The Polar Express (U): Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Tom Hanks provides one of the voiceovers in this animated adaptation of the children's book about a young boy's journey to the North Pole on a magical steam train, where he meets Father Christmas. 3pm. There will be free popcorn for children and mince pies for adults, and there is a licensed bar. Adults £5, under 15s £3, family £12.

Theatre

FRIDAY

Not Quite Sleeping Beauty: Carterton Community College, Upavon Way, Carterton. ACT (Acting Community Thingumbogs) present a panto in which the audience is invited to boo, hiss, clap, cheer and laugh as they follow Prince Hero and his unlucky sidekick Brian try to rescue the beautiful princess from her eternal sleep. Performances are on Friday at 7pm, Saturday at 2pm and 7pm, and Sunday at 2pm. Tickets at £6 each are available from Wreal Sports in Carterton town centre. All profits from the group's productions go to Save the Children Fund.

TUESDAY

Annie: New Theatre, Oxford. Jodie Prenger, a former winner of the BBC One talent show *I'd Do Anything* stars as the tyrannical Miss Hannigan in this tale, set in 1930s New York of an orphan whose luck changes when she is chosen to spend Christmas at the residence of billionaire. It features the songs *It's the Hard Knock Life and Tomorrow*. Until January 3. 7.30pm plus matinées on some days. £12.50-£43.50 plus fees. See atgtickets.com/oxford

The 39 Steps: Andrew Willes Building, Mathematics Institute, Woodstock Road, Oxford. Stage adaptation of John Buchan's classic spy tale. Until Saturday. 7.30pm. £12/£15. 01865 305305.

CakeSport

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Two-goal Duran Martin (right) celebrates with Banbury United's Leam Howards
Picture: Simon Williams

Duran double extends form

Puritans make it nine league games unbeaten

DURAN Martin's double helped Banbury United beat Slimbridge 3-1 to go nine Evo-Stik Southern League Division 1 South & West games unbeaten. After Leam Howards hit a post, Zac McEachran knocked in the rebound for a ninth-minute lead. And it was 2-0 on 14 minutes when Martin found the corner. The Puritans made the game safe with ten minutes to go, when Martin drove home, before Paul Fahy scored from the spot. **Banbury Utd:** Harding, White, Welch-Hayes, Martin, Westbrook, Gunn, McEach-

ran, Nash (Stanbridge 82), Johnson (Joyce 75), Howards, Browne (Bell 68). **Subs not used:** Wise, Steedman. It followed a 2-1 midweek win at home to Marlow. Andy Gunn headed Mike Ford's side in front on 57 minutes from a Mark Bell free-kick. The lead lasted just four minutes, when Chris Ovenden equalised from close range, but Callum White won the game with a powerful shot 13 minutes from time. Banbury will attempt to extend their unbeaten league run into double figures on Saturday, when they travel to Shortwood United.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION 1 SOUTH & WEST										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Cinderford Tn	20	15	4	1	45	11	49			
Winchester City	19	13	4	2	54	22	43			
North Leigh	21	13	3	5	47	18	42			
Banbury Utd	20	11	7	2	46	22	40			
Tiverton Tn	21	11	7	3	34	21	40			
S'don S'marine	19	11	3	5	34	20	36			
Bishops Cleeve	20	9	7	4	33	27	34			
Shortwood Utd	20	11	0	9	36	35	33			
Taunton Tn	17	9	5	3	28	14	32			
Evesham Utd	19	9	5	5	33	20	32			
Larkhall Ath	21	8	7	6	38	31	31			
Didcot Tn	18	8	3	7	36	22	27			
Slimbridge	22	6	10	24	30	24	24			
Yate Tn	21	6	5	10	25	28	23			
Mangotsf'ld Utd	20	6	5	9	33	40	23			
AFC Totton	20	6	2	12	30	45	20			
Marlow	17	5	10	29	34	17	17			
Wantage Tn	20	5	2	13	28	37	17			
Wimborne Tn	20	5	2	13	36	48	17			
Burnham	22	4	4	14	23	47	16			
Bridgwater Tn	19	4	3	12	19	39	15			
Bashley	20	0	0	20	7	97	0			

Banbury stay top with big Malvern win

BANBURY march on at the top of Midlands 2 West (South) after a bonus point 37-8 victory over Malvern. Playing into a strong wind, the hosts went in front through a penalty, but Bulls soon took the lead with Robin Cooke crossing. Ed Phillips added two penalties, before scoring a try of his own. Matt Goode and Joe Mills were next, making it 30-3 at half-time. Bulls were first to score after the break, Mills crossing for his second, with Phillips converting. The visitors were unable to add to their tally, but Malvern grabbed an unconverted try. **Midlands 2 West (South)**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Banbury	9	8	0	1	349	144	40
Spartans	9	7	0	2	282	124	36
Earlsdon	9	7	0	2	297	106	35
Berkswell & B	9	7	0	2	246	130	34
Pinley	9	6	1	2	187	103	29
Barkers Butts	9	4	1	4	237	204	22
Nuneaton OE	9	4	0	5	212	182	22
Malvern	9	4	0	5	191	198	21
Dunlop	9	2	0	7	127	272	11
Leamington	9	2	0	7	101	264	10
Droitwich	9	1	1	7	111	277	7
Bedworth	9	0	1	8	137	473	3

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

You have worked so hard for all you have and yet it seems that others have taken things away from you with ease. Try to slow your pace and look at what is going on around you. Answers are yours if you can find the courage to ask those all important questions. Ring now to hear why it's worth giving in to the requests of loved ones.

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

I can see from your chart that you haven't felt quite yourself recently, but what you need to know and remember Libra is that your priority is to be true to you and your feelings. News of someone who can enhance your career gives you reason to get excited about life again. Ring now for more news and gossip.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

I can see that you've been the victim of lies which have been told to you and that you seem unsure of what your next move in life should be. A break up in your inner circle brings shock and surprise but should also give you the courage to do what you want with your life at last. Gambles in love pay dividends. Call now for insight.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Social aspects are strong and you start to do what feels right instead of what looks right. I can see from your stars that family have not been much use to you recently. However, from this week you start to see with ease what needs to be done to get back on track. Ring now to hear why it's worth saving instead of spending this year.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

There is a really exciting feel to your life at the moment which should give you reason to act on your impulses and to do what feels right instead of just what looks right. A decision you make this week shapes the rest of your year, not just the month ahead. Give me a call now to hear why it's worth coming clean about lies in business.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

I can see how much you've had to cope with in recent days and weeks, but try to give yourself a break Cancer as there is much you want to achieve that can and will become a reality if you believe in yourself a little more. Talks with an ex help you gain closure. Ring now so I can help you to focus on the present, not the past.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Lies you told will come back on you, so beware of telling untruths or you will regret it for the rest of the year. News from far away gives you reason to plan a really exciting journey. You've done a lot of growing up recently and it shows my friend, so use your new found knowledge to move forward, not back. Ring now for more predictions.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

I know you've found it hard to tell fact from fiction, but I also know that you've done a very good job of finding out what makes certain close ones tick recently. Follow Virgos hold the key to a better understanding of where your career can and should go. Ring now to hear why I'm so excited about your house of love this year.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

This weekend, the Moon shows you with clarity who was lying and who has been telling the truth and you may well be surprised when you find out what has really been going on. Time spent with older family members gives closure to something that's been playing on your mind for months. Ring now for insight.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Work and play cross paths and many of you may well find that you connect with those you haven't even noticed previously. A touch of fame beckons in your career as you're asked to do something which brings you both popularity and notoriety. Ring now to hear why it's worth giving up your freedom for a career move in weeks to come.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are finally able to tell fact from fiction. You also start to think more about how you feel than how you look. Those who have been acting distantly from you start to come back around due to your new attitude. Keep manners to the fore in business on Friday. Your success depends on it. Ring now for the full low down.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

You take a step up the career ladder, as those with the power finally notice how talented you are and how hard you've been working. News from far away gives you reason to get excited about your future again. That air of despondency begins to lift and you start to feel positive. Ring now to make the most of this opportune time.

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IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2015-16
HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL
ADDITIONAL PROVISION 5 (DECEMBER 2015)
AND NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is intended that the Select Committee of the House of Commons which is considering this Bill should consider certain amendments to the Bill for the following amongst other purposes:–

1. Amendments to authorise revised proposals for the construction of works and acquisition of lands:

London Borough of Hillingdon,

- An access road (Work No. 1/68A)
- Land required for diversion or installation of, or works to, utilities apparatus
- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

County of Buckinghamshire, District of Aylesbury Vale, Parish of Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

Parish of Grendon Underwood,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

Parish of Hogshaw,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

County of Warwickshire, District of North Warwickshire, Parish of Middleton and County of Staffordshire, District of Lichfield, Parish of Drayton Bassett,

- A gas main diversion (Work No. 3/53)

County of Staffordshire, District of Lichfield, Parish of Weeford,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

Parish of Hints with Canwell,

- An access road (Work No. 3/73)

Parish of Longdon,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

Metropolitan Borough of Solihull, Parish of Bickenhill,

- Additional land for a people mover (Work No. 3/20).

2. Amendment of clause 63 of the Bill to refer to the additional Environmental Information published in connection with the Bill in September 2014, July 2015, September 2015, October 2015 and to the additional Environmental Information referred to in this notice below.

3. In connection with the construction of the works specified in 1 above, provision for the stopping up or diversion of the public footpaths and bridleways specified in Schedule 1 to this notice.

Plans and Sections, with a Book of Reference to those Plans, relating to the proposed Amendments will be available for public inspection at the offices and libraries referred to in Parts I and II of Schedule 2 to this Notice.

An Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments (ES) and Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES) together with a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will also available for public inspection at each of the offices and libraries mentioned in Parts I and II of Schedule 2 to this notice and for inspection at the following offices: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd, 5th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, Tel: 020 7944 4908, Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2 and Eversheds LLP, 3-5 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7PE.

Copies of the proposed Amendments together with copies of the Bill will be available for public inspection at each of the offices and libraries mentioned in Parts I and II of Schedule 2 to this notice and for inspection at the following office: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd, 5th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, Tel: 020 7944 4908, Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2

Copies of the ES, SES and NTS and copies of the proposed Amendments together with copies of the Bill will also be available for sale from High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, 5th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, Tel: 020 7944 4908, Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2

The proposed Amendments and the Bill are available on the UK Parliament’s website at www.parliament.uk. The Plans and Sections, ES, SES and NTS are available on the Department for Transport’s website at www.gov.uk/transport and via HS2 Ltd’s website at www.gov.uk/hs2

Any person who wishes to make comments on the ES and SES should send them either by post to: FREEPOST HS2 AP5 CONSULTATION, or by email to: HS2PhaseOneAPDecember2015@dialoguebydesign.co.uk on or before 22 January 2016.

Please note: if you wish to send your response by recorded delivery or special delivery, please telephone the HS2 Ltd Community Relations Helpdesk on 0207 944 4908 to arrange this.

Anyone wishing to send comments should note that responses will be published on a publicly-accessible website in due course, but the names, addresses and signatures of individuals will not be published. As it is not possible for the substance of responses to be checked to ascertain whether they contain other personal data, you should not include information in your response that could identify you unless you are content for it to be made public.

If you do not want any of your response to be published you should clearly mark it as “Confidential” in the “subject” of the email or at the top of your letter. However please note the following two paragraphs.

If you want the information you provide to be treated as confidential, you should be aware that all information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to disclosure in accordance with access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). Under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with confidentiality obligations. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain in your response why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If a request for disclosure of the information you provide is received full account will be taken of your explanation, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department for Transport or HS2 Ltd.

Please note that all responses received, whether marked Confidential or not, will be passed on in full to the Houses of Parliament and their appointed Assessor, who will analyse the responses and make a report to Parliament. That report will not contain your personal data.

Submitting comments to the Secretary of State does not affect the entitlement of persons to make objections to the proposed Amendments by depositing a petition in the House of Commons referred to below.

The Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons as a public Bill. In the House of Commons, by the terms of the Order made by that House, objection to the proposed Amendments may be made by depositing a Petition against them in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons not later than the end of the period of four weeks beginning with the day on which the first newspaper notice of the Amendments is published. Any such Petition must therefore be deposited in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons not later than 2pm on Friday 8 January 2016.

In the House of Lords, objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, and the latest date for depositing such a petition against the Bill may be subject to an Order made by that House or, if no Order is made, will be the tenth day after that on which the Bill receives its First reading in that House. In the latter case, if this date is a Sunday, Christmas Day or Bank Holiday, or a day on which the House does not sit, the final date for depositing may be postponed.

Information about the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from either the Private Bill Office, House of Commons or the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, or from the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

DATED 10 December 2015

DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR.

Winckworth Sherwood LLP Parliamentary Agents, Minerva House 5 Montague Close, London SE1 9BB	Eversheds LLP Parliamentary Agents, One Wood Street London EC2V 7WS
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SCHEDULE 1		
Area	Footpath, bridleway or cycleway to be stopped up or diverted	Permanent/temporary
<i>London Borough of Hillingdon</i>	Footpath U35	Temporary
<i>County of Buckinghamshire</i>		
<i>District of South Bucks, Parish of Denham</i>	Bridleway DEN/3/1 Ricks 002	Permanent with substitution
<i>County of Northamptonshire</i>		
<i>District of South Northamptonshire, Parish of Greatworth</i>	Footpath AN13	Permanent with substitution
<i>County of Warwickshire</i>		
<i>District of North Warwickshire Parish of Middleton</i>	Footpath T15	Temporary
<i>Metropolitan Borough of Solihull</i>		
<i>Parish of Bickenhill</i>	Footpath M104	Temporary
<i>County of Staffordshire</i>		
<i>District of Lichfield, Parish of Weeford</i>	Bridleway Weeford 0.479	Temporary
<i>Parish of Hints with Canwell</i>	Bridleway Hints 4 Footpath Hints 19	Permanent with substitution Permanent with substitution

SCHEDULE 2
PART I

Officers with whom the Plans and Sections, Book of Reference, Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments, Supplementary Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary and proposed Amendments together with a copy of the Bill have been deposited for inspection.

In Greater London –

- Principal Policy Officer - Transport, Greater London Authority, City Hall, The Queen’s Walk, London, SE1 2AA
- Borough Solicitor, London Borough of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1UW

In Buckinghamshire –

- Project Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Walton St, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UA
- Head of Customer Services, South Bucks District Council, Capswood, Oxford Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 4LH
- Director, Aylesbury Vale District Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8FF
- Parish Clerk, Denham Parish Council, Rear of Denham Village Memorial Hall, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5BN
- Parish Clerk, Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell Parish Council, Halton Lodge, 40 Brook End, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, HP22 5RJ
- Parish Clerk, Hogshaw Parish Meeting, Hill End Farm, Hogshaw, Buckingham, MK18 3JY
- Parish Clerk, Grendon Underwood Parish Council, 32 Campbell Close, Lyndon Village, Buckingham, MK18 7HP

In Northamptonshire –

- Team Leader, Transport Planning, Northamptonshire County Council, County Hall, Northampton, NN1 1ED
- Lead Officer Transport Policy, South Northamptonshire District Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6AD
- Parish Clerk, Greatworth Parish Council, 1 Meadow Rise, Tiffield, Northants, NN12 8AP

In Warwickshire –

- HS2 Project Manager, Warwickshire County Council, PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SX
- Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 1DE
- Parish Clerk, Middleton Parish Council, The Orchard, Coppice Lane, Middleton, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B78 2AR

In Staffordshire –

- HS2 Project Manager, Staffordshire County Council, Wedgwood Building, Stafford, ST16 2DH
- Strategic Director - Democratic, Development & Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6YY
- Parish Clerk, Drayton Bassett Parish Council, 57 St Leonards View, Polesworth, Tamworth, B78 1JZ
- Hints with Canwell Parish Council, c/o Lichfield Library, The Friary, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6QG and Tamworth Library, Corporation Street, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DN
- Parish Clerk, Weeford Parish Council, 30 Fecknam Way, Lichfield, WS13 6BY
- Longdon Parish Council, c/o Lichfield Library, The Friary, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6QG

In Solihull –

- Head of Policy & Spatial Planning, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, B91 3QB
- Parish Clerk, Bickenhill Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Bickenhill Road, Solihull, B37 7ER

PART II

Libraries where the Plans and Sections, Book of Reference, Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments, Supplementary Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary and proposed Amendments together with a copy of the Bill have been deposited for public inspection.

- Ickenham Library, Long Lane, Ickenham, Middlesex, UB10 8RE
- South Ruislip Library, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0JE
- Harefield Library, Park Lane, Harefield, Middlesex, UB9 6BJ
- Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, MK18 1JP
- Chalfont St Peter Community Library, High Street, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, SL9 9QA
- Aylesbury Study Centre, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UU
- Wendover Community Library, High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire, HP22 6DU
- Winslow Library, Park Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3DN
- Gerrards Cross Community Library, 38 Station Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 8EL
- Middleton Cheney Library, Main Road, Middleton Cheney, Northamptonshire, OX17 2PD
- Leamington Spa Library, Royal Pump Rooms, Parade, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 4AA
- Lichfield Library, The Friary, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6QG
- Shenstone Library, Main Street, Shenstone, Staffordshire, WS14 0NF
- Tamworth Library, Corporation Street, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DN
- Marston Green Library, Land Lane, Birmingham, B37 7DQ

In brief

■ Breakdown cover provider Green Flag is expecting more than 900,000 breakdowns across Britain in December and January. The last week of the year will be the worst, according to predictions, with 105,000 call-outs expected as cars are restarted after the Christmas break. Drained batteries are the most common cause. Green Flag is recommending drivers seek a battery health check and taking a car for a drive every couple of days.

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Auto facts

Model: Nissan Qashqai 1.6t-ec DIG-T 163
Price: £24,300
Insurance group: 16E
Fuel consumption (Combined): 47.1mpg
Top speed: 124mph
Length: 437.7cm/172.3in
Width: 180.6cm/71.1in
Luggage capacity: 15.2 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 12.1 gallons/55 litres
CO2 emissions: 138g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

By David Duffy
david.duffy@ngo.com

THE sheer level of technology being packed into family cars make you wonder just how long it will be before the driver is redundant.

Nissan has stopped wondering and has put a date on its plan to commercially produce cars that happily drive themselves.

2020 is the company's target and if the equipment packed into the latest Qashqai is anything to go by, they are well on their way.

Spacious, quiet and family-friendly, the Qashqai is nippy enough to be comfortable around town, while powerful and economical enough to revel in long distance travel.

The car driven here came in top-of-the-range n-tec+ specification, which means just about every driver aid possible is operating.

For a start, speed limit signs are automatically read by a front-facing camera and displayed in the dashboard. This function works across Europe and even recognises that some countries enforce a weather-dependent lower speed limit if it's raining, so both dry and wet weather limits are displayed to the driver.

Particularly handy on motorways, the car monitors vehicles in your blind spot, and also keeps an eye on the driver's behaviour



The Nissan Qashqai, which is packed with technology

and warns you if you are getting tired. A separate system sounds a gentle alert if the car starts to drift out of lane.

By scanning the road ahead using radar, the Qashqai delivers three levels of automatic assistance. First is an audible warning, alerting you if the gap to the car in front is closing. Second, if you do not react, the brakes are automatically partially applied. Finally if the gap is still closing, the brakes will be applied harder if necessary.

The headlights switch themselves on and off, and flick from main beam to dip without any involvement from the driver, using a delightfully sensitive system that, unlike some similar arrangements, never once blinded an oncoming driver.

Even at low speeds you get a helping hand with a collection of cameras providing a 'helicopter view' parking aid displayed on a seven-inch screen. When stationary, if something moves into the area covered by the four cameras, the system gives an audible warning and highlights the area in which the moving object is detected.

All this technology is packed into a bolder, more muscular looking car that is 20mm wider, 47mm longer and 15mm lower than the previous model. Yet despite this reduction in height, front and rear headroom levels have increased by 10mm and the raised driving position remains.

Load space flexibility has also been improved, with a tailgate that opens 150mm higher.

Win driving lessons for students

AN EARLY driver education programme is pressing ahead with its campaign to get driving on the school curriculum.

A competition has been launched to offer four secondary schools the chance to win a Young Driver at School event for up to 60 children, to show the impact that early tuition can have on youngsters.

Young Driver is Britain's largest provider of under-17 driving tuition, having delivered 275,000 lessons from its 41 training centres and run events at more than 130 schools. It can offer tuition to anyone over the age of 10.

The scheme is leading a campaign to have driving added to

the school curriculum, in a bid to cut down the high accident rate for young drivers. One in five new drivers in the UK has an accident within six months of passing their test and road accidents account for 25 per cent of the deaths of 15-19 year olds in the UK, compared to just 0.5 per cent of the overall adult population. Every year 400 people are killed in accidents involving young drivers.

Kim Stanton, who heads up the Young Driver scheme, said: "Something needs to be done to tackle the shockingly high rate of accidents young drivers have – far too many precious lives are lost, and barely a week goes by without

another tragic story. Pilot studies in Europe have shown a 40 per cent reduction among novice driver groups who trained at school, and our own research similarly shows that Young Driver past pupils are half as likely to have an accident when they have passed their test."

The competition is open to any independent or state secondary school/academy based in Great Britain and includes either 30 half-hour or 60 15-minute lessons, and a road safety classroom session from a qualified advanced driving instructor.

To enter please visit www.youngdriver.eu/schoolcompetition

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